



TITLE: Center-Based Early Intervention Services

DOCUMENT: Service Standard

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Center-based Infant Development Programs are designed specifically for toddlers age 2-3 who would benefit from social and learning experiences beyond what is available from an in-home program but whose significant global delays or severe medical or behavioral challenges would not allow them to benefit from a typical preschool. Their purpose is similar to that of the individualized services but they also allow for the child to socialize with peers in a structured environment.

The regional center may purchase center-based services under the following circumstances:

- 1) The infant/toddler is not eligible for a public school program;
- 2) Based on the formal assessments, the IFSP team has determined that the child has functional or special needs which may be appropriately met by center-based services.

Typically, part-time attendance is sufficient to meet the developmental needs of the child. The specific program and the number of days per week which are recommended for the child are determined by the severity of the child's delay, the need to prevent regression, the presence of medical and/or physical concerns, the need for socialization opportunities, the home environment and the transportation resources of the family. Children enrolled in a center-based program may also receive supplemental therapies, including speech, occupational, or physical therapy.

If the child is medically fragile, a medical release from the child's physician may be required prior to the purchase of a center-based program.

Reauthorization of Services

The need for continuation of early intervention services is assessed at the time of the semi-annual IFSP based on developmental monitoring and periodic reports of the child's progress submitted by the center-based service. Services terminate when the child's eligibility for the Early Start program ends at age 3.

Exception

If the child is currently enrolled in a center-based program purchased by the regional center and the child turns three during the months of July or August when the Public school is not in session, the regional center may continue to purchase the center-based services until the child enrolls in the public school program.